

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-06

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FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO AMEMBASSY KABUL

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 2665

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 11210

LIMDIS

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, AF, PK

SUBJ: PAKISTAN-AFGHANISTAN RELATIONS

REF: ISLAMABAD 11138

1. DURING DEC. 28 DISCUSSION WITH DCM ON SEVERAL TOPICS,
FOREIGN SECRETARY AGHA SHAHI RAISED SUBJECT OF MUMTAZ ALI
BHUTTO'S RECENTLY ABORTED TRIP TO KABUL WHICH HAD BEEN

PLANNED FOR PURPOSE DISCUSSING ISLAMIC CONFERENCE NOW
SCHEDULED TO BE HELD NEXT MONTH IN LAHORE. IN TONES OFTEN
SHARP WITH IRRITATION, SHAHI SAID THAT SEVERAL DAYS BEFORE
SCHEDULED MUMTAZ VISIT, AFGHAN AMBASSADOR POPAL WAS ASKED
TO SECURE APPROVAL FOR IT. CONCURRENTLY, GOP SOUGHT
CLEARANCE FOR VISIT THROUGH ITS EMBASSY IN KABUL. POPAL
DID NOT RECEIVE A REPLY FROM HIS GOVERNMENT (THIS COIN-
CIDES WITH POPAL'S STATEMENT TO AMBASSADOR, REPORTED
REFTEL). REPLY RECEIVED FROM GOA BY PAK EMBASSY IN
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KABUL WAS TO EFFECT THAT NO NEED SEEN FOR VISIT. SHAHI

SAID THAT GOP -- INCLUDING PRIMIN BHUTTO -- CONSIDER
REPLY AND OFF-HAND MANNER IN WHICH IT CONVEYED TO BE CAL-
CULATED INSULT. DISPLEASURE OF GOP SO GREAT THAT PRESS
PUBLICITY GIVEN TO INCIDENT WAS DELIBERATELY INVOKED BY
THE GOVERNMENT.

2. SHAHI SAID MUMTAZ VISIT HAD NO OTHER PURPOSE THAN DIS-
CUSSION ISLAMIC CONFERENCE AGENDA AND ARRANGEMENTS IN
SAME FASHION AS HAS BEEN DONE WITH OTHER EXPECTED PARTI-
CIPANTS. EMISSARY CAREFULLY CHOSEN TO INDICATE IMPORTANCE
GOP ATTACHES TO PARTICIPATION BY AFGHANISTAN. IT WAS FIRST
THOUGHT TO SEND FORMER MINISTER FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS
JATOI BUT WITH THE DECISION TO DESIGNATE
HIM CHIEF MINISTER OF SIND, MUMTAZ WAS SUBSTITUTED. VISIT
WAS NOT FOR PURPOSE PRESENTING INVITATION. NO COUNTRY HAS
AS YET BEEN FORMALLY INVITED. INVITATIONS NOW BEING PRE-
PARED -- EACH BEING SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT -- AND "ONLY 5 OR 6"
SIGNED TO DATE BY PRIME MINISTER.

3. ON DEC. 26 SHAHI CALLED IN POPAL AND DURING ENSUING
MEETING OF "ALMOST TWO HOURS" CONVEYED TO HIM GOP VIEW
THAT TURNDOWN OF MUMTAZ VISIT REGARDED AS A "SERIOUS IN-
SULT" TO PAKISTAN. SHAHI TOLD POPAL THAT UNLESS GOA
TAKES SOME ACTION TO MAKE REDRESS, INCIDENT SEEN AS MARK-
ING "SERIOUS DETERIORATION IN RELATIONS." SHAHI ADVISED
POPAL TO CONVEY THIS MESSAGE PERSONALLY TO HIS GOVERNMENT
AND POPAL, WHO IS NOW IN KABUL, AGREED TO DO SO.

4. SHAHI SAID ONE WAY FOR GOA TO SHOW THERE WAS NO IN-
VIDIOUS INTENT IN ALL OF THIS WOULD BE FOR IT TO INVITE
GOP TO SEND EMISSARY TO DISCUSS THE ISLAMIC CONVERENCE.
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